

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TEL AV 08236 071504Z

71

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15

OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 DLOS-06

SAL-01 PA-02 PRS-01 /124 W

----- 028432

R 071407Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4049

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 8236

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS/ ENRG, IS, EG

SUBJECT: ISRAELI OIL DRILLING IN THE GULF OF SUEZ

1. THE DECEMBER 5 YEDIOT AHARONOT REPORTED THAT ISRAEL HAD BEGUN A NEW OIL DRILLING OPERATION THE WEEK BEFORE IN THE RED SEA (PRESUMABLY IN THE GULF OF SUEZ). THE FIRST OFFSHORE DRILLING, IN WHICH AMERICAN INVESTORS HAD PARTICIPATED, FAILED TO STRIKE OIL. THE SECOND DRILLING WAS DELAYED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS BECAUSE OF "MANY PROBLEMS". MEANWHILE, ANOTHER HOLE DRILLED ON LAND NEAR A-TUR TURNED OUT TO BE DRY AND A NEW DIAGONAL DRILLING IS BEING PLANNED.

2. THE HAARETZ CORRESPONDENT IN WASHINGTON, D.C. REPORTED ON DECEMBER 7 THAT THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION HAD INFORMED AMERICAN COMPANIES THAT IT REGARDS ISRAELI OIL DRILLING IN THE GULF OF SUEZ AS "ILLEGAL AND HARMFUL TO PEACE". THIS POSITION WAS INCLUDED IN A LETTER SENT IN RESPONSE TO AN INQUIRY BY A COMPANY CONSIDERING AN ISRAELI PROPOSAL FOR DRILLING IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE GULF OF SUEZ. AMERICAN CIRCLES BELIEVE THAT ISRAEL GENERALLY WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY IN MOBILIZING INVESTORS FOR OIL EXPLORATION IN THIS AREA.

3. THE ARTICLE ALSO QUOTES SOURCES IN WASHINGTON AS SAYING THAT AMOCO HAS EXPRESSED ANXIETY ABOUT THE SITUATION IN THE GULF

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TEL AV 08236 071504Z

OF SUEZ, BUT HAS NOT PRESSED FOR AN IMMEDIATE RENEWAL OF

NEGOTIATIONS. WHILE AMOCO WANTS THE QUESTION OF DRILLING IN BLOCK 304.1 TO "REMAIN ON THE AGENDA", IT SEEMS TO BE WAITING FOR THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AND PROBABLY ALSO FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON A GENERAL AGREEMENT WHICH IT HOPES WILL BEGIN WITHIN A FEW MONTHS. SOME EXPERTS, THE WRITER SAYS, THINK THAT THE QUESTION OF EGYPTIAN AND AMERICAN DRILLING IN THE GULF OF SUEZ CAN BE RESOLVED ONLY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF GENERAL ARAB/ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS.

4. RE OIL PROSPECTING IN THAT PART OF SINAI RECOVERED BY EGYPT, PRESS REPORTED DECEMBER 7 THAT GULF AND ENI HAVE INITIALLED AGREEMENTS AND CONOCO IS CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING IN CAIRO FOR ANOTHER CONCESSION IN THE AREA. DUNNIGAN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPLORATORY DRILLING, GULF OF SUEZ
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV08236
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760452-1228
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761264/aaaacdnh.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUN 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <06 AUG 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI OIL DRILLING IN THE GULF OF SUEZ
TAGS: ENRG, IS, EG, (AHARONOT, YEDIOT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006